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21 June 1955

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San Francisco, California

Dear Joe:

Subject: Army Signal Communications

Your letter of 10 June on the above subject is appreciated, and it is with regret we learn of this ill-timed criticism. We have had no inkling that anything like this was in the wind, but believe we can see how it developed.

As you know, we have informally through channels registered intermittent complaints with ACSD during the past year over particular deficiencies in the service from [ ] pushing them to a gradually higher level as the general situation showed little sign of improvement. At the time your [ ] began its experimental connection with Air Force, we changed our approach from specific cases to a general request that ACSD concur in our linking with GLOBECOM as an alternate communications channel in the expectation that the additional service would probably solve the majority of our problems. As I originally advised you, and Norm later elaborated by letter, the Army felt very sensitive about this request on the grounds that its service must be seriously sub-standard for us to consider backstop via GLOBECOM, which the Army considers an inferior service. Therefore, they asked that they be given a chance to improve their service in lieu of our joining GLOBECOM. One of the immediate improvements was the concession of OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE precedence privileges. Concomitantly they requested more information on the background of our problems. This Norm solicited in his letter, and you replied very satisfactorily, we felt, in your letter of 4 May 1955. Selected information was passed along. It was decided with Commo that connecting with Air Force was still a good move, especially since there appeared to be a stronger justification in your quoting the [ ] Signal Officer as stating that GLOBECOM is eventually slated to become the primary communications agency on [ ]

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You will be interested to know that the Pentagon reaction to the latter statement was one of sheer surprise and emphatic denial. I therefore suspect that what may have happened is that the Pentagon found this

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25X1A6A the straw that broke the camel's back. The recent improvements in service from [ ] apparently were not enough to offset the cumulative effect of our representations of the past year when the matter finally reached the point of the [ ] Signal Officer appearing to undersell his own organization.

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25X1A6A Since the Army maintains it will continue to be the primary communicator from [ ] it continues to brush off our request for a coordinated tie-in with the Air Force. Como has recommended that we let the matter rest for the time being, and I am inclined to agree since unexpected repercussions have occurred. Although the present situation is unfortunate, I believe that the pressure has had a salutary effect on service from [ ] which, with a little luck, may last longer than the time it will take the [ ] Signal Officer to return to a posture of cordiality with the [ ]

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Sincerely,

[ ]

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- 1 - AMW ✓
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